

objections in light thereof and the accompanying remarks. Please amend the application as follows. A marked-up version of the amended portions pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121, highlighting the changes made, can be found attached to this paper.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 18 and 25 to read as follows:

18. (Twice Amended) A multi-domain alignment active-matrix liquid crystal display device comprising:

first and second transparent plates arranged to oppose each other;

a liquid crystal being sandwiched between the first and second plates, and

pixel electrodes disposed on one of said plates and

counterelectrodes disposed on the other of said plates and adapted to apply voltage to the liquid crystal across the pixel electrodes and the counterelectrodes;

wherein an orientation layer is provided on each pixel electrode of one of said plates via an insulating film,

wherein said orientation layer is formed into a curved or slanted surface so as to orient molecules of the liquid crystal in a direction normal to the curved or slanted surface of said orientation layer, and

wherein at least one columnar spacer is provided between the two opposing plates for regulating a panel gap between said plates, said at least one columnar spacer disposed approximately at a center of a pixel.

25. (Twice Amended) A multi-domain alignment active-matrix liquid crystal display device comprising;

first and second transparent plates arranged to oppose each other;

a liquid crystal being sandwiched between the first and second plates, and

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pixel electrodes disposed on one of said plates and counterelectrodes disposed on the other of said plates and adapted to apply voltage to the liquid crystal across the pixel electrode and the counterelectrodes;

wherein an orientation layer is provided on each pixel electrode of one of said plates,

wherein said orientation layer and said pixel electrode are formed into a curved or slanted surface;

wherein at least one columnar spacer having a diameter that varies along its axis is provided between the two opposing plates for regulating a panel gap between said plates, and said at least one columnar spacer disposed approximately at a center of a pixel.

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REMARKS

Claims 1-16, 18-22, and 24-42 are pending in the instant application. At the outset, Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 4, 10, 11, 13 and 14. In the most recent Office Action, Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 12 and 15-41 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,344,883 to Yamada, et al. (hereinafter, "Yamada"). Claim 7 is rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Yamada in view of U.S. Patent